

C.I.A. IS DIFFERENT.

The Central Intelligence Agency may well be damaged irreparably if the Washington system of leaking information is permitted to continue much longer. The chief of the C.I.A. is Allen W. Dulles, who has been its director for the past nine years. Among the Department of Defense, the State Department, the White House and the C.I.A. itself, the effort to liberate Cuba from Fidel Castro turned into a fiasco. No one has successfully pinned the blame on anyone. The president himself pointed out, commenting on the failure of the invasion effort, that he personally bore the ultimate responsibility, but, as it is well known in a clandestine operation, the normal way to quiet down controversy and argument is for the president to step in and take the blame. However, in this particular instance stories began to leak out from various interested parties that Mr. Dulles would be resigning soon.

Then there were leaks that the successor had already been selected by the president. For a while the report was circulated that Telford Taylor, who was a prosecutor of the Nazi war criminals, would be named as director of the C.I.A. Today the story is that Fowler Hamilton, now a New York attorney, 50 years old, would be appointed as the new director of the C.I.A. What happened to Mr. Taylor is not clear. The Taylor story looks now as though it were so premature that it wasn't even a fact. The White House press secretary, when he was asked about Mr. Hamilton, said there was "no change in Mr. Dulles' plans regarding his retirement later this year." The way Mr. Salinger made the comment it would appear that Mr. Dulles definitely had submitted plans for retiring, although up to this moment that, too, had been a rumor.

What is most disturbing about this whole Washington phenomenon or leak is that a man is put in an untenable position when various officials want to know more about what is planned for him then he does himself. The C.I.A. on the whole has done a good job under Mr. Dulles, even though it has been criticized for the crash of a U-2 airplane under its aus-

ago; even though also it has been criticized because the Cuban invasion did not come off on schedule. Any intelligence agency never can tell of its successes but always is singled out for specific failures.

Regardless of whether there is a retirement close at hand for Mr. Dulles, one point should be established firmly: the head of the C. I. A. should not be part of the spoils system. He should have an appointment that bears absolutely no relationship with what party happens to be in power. To his everlasting credit, President Truman recognized this. Mr. Dulles' identification with the C. I. A. dates back to when Mr. Truman was in the White House. Mr. Dulles was deputy director of the C. I. A. The director at the time was Gen. Walter Bedell-Smith. Gen. Smith became ill, and Mr. Dulles took over. Before a new appointment is made to the directorship, President Kennedy

should particularly take pains to point out that this job is outside of politics, just as is the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover.

Mr. Hamilton, according to the latest leak from Washington, would replace Mr. Dulles in October or November. He is supposed to come into the C.I.A. next September, presumably to familiarize himself with that agency. He was a lawyer in the Justice department in 1942 and 1943. He was in the air force from 1943 to 1945. His task in the air force involved the study of economic vulnerability of enemy cities. He was a member of what was known as the joint target group in air force intelligence and as such had a role in the selection of the targets of American bombers. He returned to the Department of Justice after the war's end. Last year he was a member of the study group that set up a Pentagon reorganization for Sen. Stuart Symington. He is a lawyer in New York now.

He himself would not comment on the prospects of his being named to the C.I.A. position. Regardless of what President Kennedy's plans may be, this is bad business on the part of some of his advisors who seem to be constantly passing out official plans unofficially.

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